

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc Disabilities Action Team (DAT)
February 18, 2014 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on February 18th, 2014,
at 5:30pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert, Chair
Cheryl Anderson
Denise Heap
Lu Ann Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Jodi Sorrell

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the January 28th, 2014 DAT meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the January 28th, 2014 DAT meeting minutes, Ms. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear an update, discuss and take action regarding the Dial-a-Ride program and other accessibility services from the City of Mesa Transit Director.

Ms. Sorrell, City of Mesa Transit Director, provided an informational update on the East Valley Dial-a-Ride (EVDAR) Brokerage Model Pilot Project. Ms. Sorrell briefed DAT on the goals for accessible transit service in FY14/15 such as: strengthen and enhance ADA paratransit eligibility certification process, improve effectiveness and efficiency of Dial-a-Ride, improve regional coordination and focus on fixed route accessibility. The program has been in pilot project phase since FY12 with the underlying goal to improve service quality and reduce cost. Financial records demonstrate the cost savings as well as mid line comparison with other peer agencies. Some areas for improvement include: increase trip sharing, improve management tools and technology, as well as improve reports and accountability.

At this time, the decision must be made to continue the pilot Taxi Brokerage Model or revert to the traditional paratransit model. Ms. Sorrell demonstrated the cost savings comparison through a growth scenario chart. DAT members agreed that the pilot program has been effective in meeting the desired goals and would be the recommended option. The next steps for Transit staff is to negotiate a three year agreement with Total Transit that: reduces brokerage requirement from 50% to 25% (with a focus on trip sharing), includes more advantageous pricing and established financial incentives/ penalties based on success relative to agency goals.

Ms. Sorrell also informed DAT on other transit related items such as the change to a pre-loaded card for the Coupons for Cab, light rail addition, and fixed bus routes. Ms. Heap questioned how the board can provide support to the Transit Department. In response, Ms. Sorrell stated that members can encourage the public to speak to their Councilmembers on transit related issues, make comments on iMesa or the General Plan, as well as help educate the public on Prop 400 which is how many transit services are being funded. Mr.

Tompert thanked Ms. Sorrell for the information and asked that she attend an upcoming board meeting to provide similar information to the entire board. Ms. Sorrell agreed to attend the May 21st, 2014 board meeting and stated that she will extend the invitation to Valley Metro's new Manager of Accessible Transit Services, Ron Brooks.

5. Hear update, discuss and take action on an educational awareness campaign related to service animals.

Ms. Heap advised that she is still waiting contact to confirm information for the draft letter. Ms. Heap plans to have the completed draft letter for the next DAT meeting. Ms. Heap also provided the other members a news article regarding a Veteran who uses a service animal for PTSD.

6. Discuss, consider and take action on ways to educate the community on mental health issues.

Mr. Tompert stated that they should first educate other board members on mental health issues in order to for members to appropriately education the community. Ms. Anderson advised that she can arrange a panel of specialists from the Marc Center to attend an upcoming board meeting in order to provide an educational forum on mental health issues. Ms. Anderson explained that Marc Center staff is very knowledgeable on peer recovery coaches, making natural connections, therapeutic dogs and other 'best practices' when working with those with mental health concerns. Ms. Schmidt stated that she could invite a service dog expert to participate in the panel since the topic will be discussed. DAT members agreed to have the presentation limited to the Marc Center at this time.

7. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

Ms. Schmidt advised that she will be attending a Pancake Breakfast with Councilmember Somers in District 6. Mr. Tompert asked that she provide a report at the next meeting.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 at 5:30pm.

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator